IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-20 are canceled.

Claims 21 and 24 are amended and Claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 were previously presented as follows:

21. (Amended) A method for managing a network of devices consuming a resource provided by a utility, said method comprising the steps of:

initiating a state change, from a utility computing platform, to affect resource consumption at ~~at least one~~ a premise;

receiving said state change from said utility computing platform at a gateway at said ~~at least one~~ premise;

processing, at said gateway, said state change from said utility computing platform to determine an <u>automated</u> energy management scheme for affecting resource consumption at said ~~at least one~~ premise;

translating, at said gateway, said state change from said utility computing platform into a native format used by at least one device in said network of devices consuming said resource; and

generating control signals to control said network of devices consuming said resource, said control signals being a function of said state change from said utility platform and said energy management scheme <u>for said premise</u> determined by processing at said gateway.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 further including the steps of

monitoring consumption of devices at said gateway to determine compliance with said

energy management scheme; and

feeding back to said utility computing platform results of said monitoring step.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein additional state changes

may be initiated by said utility as a function of the results of said monitoring step.

24.   (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein said ~~at least one~~ premise is a single

premise or a selected grouping of premises.

25.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein said processing step

involves applying rules from a rules engine to said state change.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said additional state

changes are initiated to achieve target demand reduction.